

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Leanne M Harris B.A. (Hons)

Headteacher



11th September 2020

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of the first full week, I wanted to update you on how things have been going.

I would like to start by saying how well the children are settling in with their new class teachers. There is an absolute feeling of calm and purpose in the classrooms. I do a daily tour to check on everyone and am regularly greeted with huge smiles, learning chats and some excellent work in their books. I am, as always, so proud of the staff but would like to thank all of you for the support you are giving to your child and as a result, the school. We rely heavily on this support so that the home/school partnership can be as successful as possible as we all work for excellence for your child. Drop off and pick up times are calming a great deal and again, thank you for your patience in this new world.

Photos are now on the school website to show you what the inside of the building looks like for your child and I hope that this acts as reassurance that we continue to do all we can to make things as safe as possible for both children and staff.

Parent Pupil Champions

This year, we would like to launch champions for each class (more details to follow next week). It is my hope that if we have one or two champions per class, they will meet with me half termly to work on a school focus to further improve something for the life of St. Anne's. Our first project is a prayer, reflection area at the front of school. I have ideas but desperately need the skills of parents to help me put it into action. Amongst parents, there will be gardeners, painters, decorators, artists and so much more. I think support of the school in new ways is such a positive thing for your child to see and I welcome any parent help. Parent pupil champions are purely the voice of parents for their class to put forward ideas about current projects so you don't have to have any particular skills for this role - just an energy to help our school! Please look out for more details next week and I look forward to welcoming you to this new initiative.

New Reception children and families

We welcomed the children in for their play and stay sessions this week and we look forward to seeing them all on Monday morning as they begin full time. It is a big step for both children and families and we are ready to welcome them and begin our journey together.

Successful Stone Age Day - Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful day yesterday in preparation for their topic on the Stone Age. Wonderful outfits children! There was an absolute buzz around the whole year group as they took part in games such as 'hunters and gatherers'. They will then begin their class book, The Stone Age Boy. What a terrific way to excite the children about the learning to come! Thank you to the staff for organising this and a huge thank you to parents for organising such brilliant outfits. Children always remember these days. Photos of the day will be uploaded soon onto e-schools so please keep an eye out!

E-Schools

Is up and running for all classes now so please keep a daily look out for information regarding anything linked to your child's class. Staff will be putting photos up of learning for you to have insight to the exciting things that are taking place! When you look on the school calendar, if you have a meeting or workshop due it will be uploaded in a power point by 1pm on that day. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions via email to the teachers who will respond collectively via e-schools.

Parents Evenings - virtual

We have purchased a new programme with the Xavier Trust for us to hold virtual meetings for this occasion. There will be a booking system and then a time slot to speak to the class teacher. Again, more details to follow.

Catch-up groups

We will shortly receive funding for catch-up groups for pupils that we feel need this. It is decided by Head Teachers how this funding will be used and agreed by Governors. I am currently working on a plan. When we have the plans finalised, I will be sharing this with you, with when and how they will work and if your child is in a group. The most effective catch up group will hold no more than 10 children and even less in KS1. They will run for approximately six weeks, reviewed and then another set of pupils will begin. We will be using our assessments to identify pupils. We hope to begin these sessions from Monday 5th October. You will be informed if your child is in the first catch-up group.

Pebbles for our Prayer Garden

Teachers will be using some of the week to decorate pebbles to lay in our new garden area. If you could send your child in with a pebble/stone next week, I would be so grateful. It will become a very special area for the children and to feel that they have contributed to it, will make it even more special. When we have finished the area, there will be photos on the school website.

Communication

A reminder that my door is always open and I am happy to meet with parents if you need something. Class teachers are the first port of call and will always get back to you with any questions you have.

This week, during collective worship I read from a piece of scripture from Matthews Gospel,

""For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them""

I reminded them all that they are never alone and someone is with them particularly in their sad times. An important message for all of the children, particularly at the moment. Staff continue to give regular inputs and sessions on well-being for the pupils early on in this transition time.

I reiterate my first words again to you, thank you, thank you, thank you for your kindness, patience and support. It means a great deal to the staff and we are blessed to have such a special community.

I have a very busy few days ahead of me with my elderly father relocating to be nearer to myself and my siblings. We are very much looking forward to having him living closer to us. I keep him updated regularly about what's happening at school and the amazing children of St Anne's.

Have a lovely weekend.

God Bless,



Mrs Murphy
Acting Head Teacher



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